MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN

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MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN

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AUGUST, 1924

MINNESOTA HISTORY IN THE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM[1]

Advocates of additional subjects for our high school curricula receive a lukewarm response these days when the cost of school support is higher than at any time in the history of the state. In many cases Minnesota high schools have reduced the number of subjects taught and cut down their faculties in order to check the mounting costs. Nevertheless, if we are to make progress in secondary education certain changes must take place.

In the programs of Minnesota high schools the subject of state history has been until recently a minus quantity. Today it is in the experimental stage. In a considerable number of schools some attempt is made to correlate state with national history, but the high school which offers state history for credit, in its regular program of studies, is the rare exception. This neglect of the study of Minnesota history is mainly due to the following reasons: first, it is feared by some that the intensive study of state history may result in an undue emphasis upon the state at the expense of the nation and thus promote provincialism; second, many believe that, although Minnesota history should be correlated with national history in high school study, state history does not merit the dignity of a separate course; third, the high school programs are already overcrowded, and, in fact, school superintendents have tried so many new courses that some of them have had to be discarded and relegated to the limbo of forgotten things; and

[1] A paper read on June 21 in Detroit, Minnesota, at the third annual state historical convention. A somewhat similar paper by Mr. White, entitled "A High School Course in Minnesota History," was read on April 15 at a meeting in Minneapolis of the social studies section of the eighth annual conference of Minnesota high school teachers. *Ed.*

finally, no text has yet been written which meets the demands of a state history course, nor are there teachers available who are adequately prepared for the work.

Perhaps my experience with a course in Minnesota history which was offered in the Frazee High School in the fall of 1923 enables me to meet some of these objections to state history courses. In the first place, it is certain that state history need make no student provincial. Obviously our national history and state history are closely related. Neither stands alone and therefore it is important to understand their correlation. The history of this commonwealth sheds light upon national history. Furthermore, a better understanding of certain epochs of our national history will be secured by getting a view from a western standpoint as well as from that of the New England historian. Let easterners use the term "provincial," for they know more about it.

No curriculum should be overcrowded but in any curriculum the best should be welcome, always. If the study of Minnesota history helps to develop better citizens, — and I maintain that it does, — it justifies itself. Much may be said for the idea of subordinating Minnesota history to national history and of correlating the two in the high school course in American history. The danger is that in this general course, which in most Minnesota high schools is crowded into the space of one semester, the general demands are so heavy that Minnesota history is practically eliminated. The study of state history should be sufficiently distinct to throw light upon the story of our country.

Judging from past experience with other subjects we may conclude that suitable texts and adequately trained teachers will become available as soon as educators give to Minnesota history the attention which it merits. In his introduction to the first volume of Dr. William W. Folwell's *History of Minnesota,* Dr. Solon J. Buck, the superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, writes, "For over seventy years the Min-

nesota Historical Society has been garnering the materials for the history of the state." Dr. Folwell's history, two volumes of which have already appeared, is "based in large part on those materials" and is in itself a veritable treasure house of historical material for teachers and students. The state historical society publishes a quarterly magazine known as the MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN, a series of volumes of *Collections,* and other materials, which are all useful.[2] The fact that no textbook has been published which contains enough material for a high school class of seniors need not deter a superintendent or a teacher from offering the course. The assistant superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, has prepared outlines of the subject which I found to be of great help in organizing material for presentation to the class and for class reading and study.[3] The use of these outlines involves considerable reading on the part of the student. Such gathering of material by the student serves as a modest introduction to the reading methods of the college student and indeed it tends to develop a habit of independent and careful reading which will be very useful even if the student should not go to college.

High school students should be given the opportunity to study Minnesota history for the pleasure which it affords. In gamboling over the wide field of Minnesota's past, the student travels far, sees strange sights, goes back to the earliest days of our colonial as well as of our national history, meets many

[2] The current publications of the society are made available to any school or library in the state which becomes a subscriber at the nominal rate of two dollars a year. To any subscribing library the earlier publications of the society are available at a very small cost.

[3] "The Correlation of American and Minnesota History: A Syllabus of Minnesota History for High School Teachers, with a Plan for Coordinating National and State History." This syllabus, which is available in the form of mimeographed copies, contains outlines, questions, and references for twenty-one topics in Minnesota history. There is also a general bibliography. Suggestions are made for the correlation of each state history topic with a broader general topic in American history.

companionable characters, and experiences the fascination of a rapidly changing drama. In the selection of optional subjects in the high school curriculum most students follow the line of their tastes and their pleasures. The subject of Minnesota history is assuredly wholesome and good and hence the reason for teaching it is good.

One of the most common reasons assigned for the study of history is that it makes clear the background of present conditions and thus helps us to understand the complexities of our environment, socially, economically, and in other respects. The majority of the high school students in this state were born here and will spend the remainder of their lives here. Minnesota history will supply them with a knowledge of facts and events which have had a part in shaping the conditions which surround them today. They will read newspapers published in Minnesota and they will vote as citizens of Minnesota. Will they not do these things more intelligently if they are familiar with the history of this state?

The study of Minnesota history possesses a genuine human interest. The biographies of eminent men and women who have made and are making the commonwealth great abound in the elements of the human touch. The fathers and mothers of many boys and girls in Minnesota have shared the hardships of the transformation from pioneer life to the thriving life of farm, village, and city today. The grandparents of many a Minnesota boy or girl laid down their lives as victims of the lurking savage, or of the rigors of a stern climate, or of the chances of the battlefield. Minnesota has had her Daniel Boones, Grace Darlings, and Molly Pitchers. John G. Patton and Dr. O. R. Bachelder among the savages of the equatorial regions performed no harder task nor carried the banner of religion with better grace and assurance than did the early missionaries among the Dakota and Ojibway Indians of Minnesota.

Minnesota history arouses the enthusiasm and personal interest of high school students. Naturally this interest is a force which may and should be effectively utilized by the teacher. Information about local or pioneer history may be gleaned from older people in the community, people well known to the boys and girls of the school. The interest of the students is immediately reciprocated by their elders. Friendly associations are formed and the aged acquire a new attraction for the young men and women. A mutual respect is created between young and old that is lasting. In every town there are many who may be found willing to contribute personal reminiscences which will be welcome additions to the class routine. In my own class this happened on several occasions. Much interest was aroused when arrowheads were discovered on a nearby farm. A bullet which wounded a Civil War soldier in the battle of Fredericksburg, an early make of surveying instrument used in the period before Minnesota became a state, numerous Indian relics, and copies of early newspapers caught the interest of the students and created a desire for further investigation of Minnesota history. The students gained a new viewpoint concerning history and its making. It dawned on them that history after all is nothing more than that which is recorded of the experiences of individuals singly or in groups. After getting this point of view students learn to weigh more carefully the material presented in the texts dealing with the larger fields of history.

The teaching of state history has proved successful in other states. The schools in our neighbor states, North Dakota and South Dakota, both offer courses in state history, and in the former the teaching of state history has been made compulsory by law. The recent provision made for state history in the elementary school curriculum of Minnesota is an excellent forward step. The work should be extended into the high schools as a broader and deeper

subject. The quality of the work done by the pupils will of course depend upon the enthusiasm and the experience of the teacher. It is by trial that Minnesota history will win its way in the schools.

I will not attempt to outline with any degree of exactness the subject matter of a course in Minnesota history. The geological and geographical conditions should be studied with care. In fact this study should be made much more intensive than anything that the student has ever attempted before along this line. The period of discovery and exploration should be considered next. Several of the earliest explorers should receive the attention of the whole class and short biographical sketches of others should be reported individually. A description of the probable appearance of Minnesota in early days will at once stimulate the imagination and test the accuracy of the student. The great fur trade, the gradual transition to agriculture, and the efforts of the early missionaries are among the topics that are worthy of the time of the students and teachers. They help to explain the rush of white settlement that followed. The government assumed a degree of wardship for the Indian tribes settled in Minnesota. Did the Indian policy encourage or deter early settlement? What the government does is always a legitimate subject for argument. A class of high school students might profitably debate the merits of the various Indian treaties.

The period of Minnesota territorial history is one of great interest. In the fifties came the tide of sectionalism which was to lead to civil strife. But the status of Minnesota on its admission to the Union was not a bone of contention, for it had been settled by northerners imbued with the sentiments of free labor. The admission of Minnesota was delayed for several months, however. This delay calls to the mind of the student the Congressional debates of that day, all surcharged with the slavery question. The great issues of that critical period can be profitably reviewed by the student as he traces

the relation of his own state to the larger events of the nation. The Civil War may be studied so as to bring out the contributions made by Minnesota men, by the famous First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and other gallant regiments. The names of Sibley, Ramsey, Shields, Crooks, and others enter into the story of this period of Minnesota history.

Let the student discover how St. Paul became the capital of the state. Let him consider the plans of Little Crow for driving the white man out of Minnesota. Would not this aim have been achieved if the Chippewa and the South Dakota Indians had joined forces with him? The Sioux War ranks as perhaps the most terrible Indian outbreak in our history and its causes as well as its tragic course deserve study. The bloody tale is not one of horror only, but also one of courage and heroism.

The student should study the history of transportation in Minnesota, especially the story of the building of the railroads. He must become familiar with the relations between the railroads and the economic life of the people. In fact, the railroads have had far-reaching influences, even in the sphere of political life.

Economic conditions at various periods in the state's past should be studied with care. Some interesting projects suggest themselves in this field, for example, a comparison of the prices following the Civil War with those that prevailed after the World War.

The political history of Minnesota is a fascinating field for study. The local interest of it is heightened by the fact that much material on this phase is available through newspapers. Many of the county weekly newspapers have complete files dating back to pioneer days, in one case, back to 1854. Usually the owners of these files will be glad to allow students to make use of them.

A beginning has been made in the teaching of Minnesota history in the high schools of this state. Doubtless the ten-

dency will be more and more to correlate state with national history in high school courses and this tendency should be encouraged. It may be a matter of years before a state course in this subject is secured. More voices than mine must be raised in behalf of Minnesota history as a high school study. There are objections which must be overcome. There must be for educators a period of pioneering in this field, as once there was for settlers in the early history of our state.

ARTHUR D. WHITE

FRAZEE, MINNESOTA

THE INFORMATION BUREAU

THE BOUNDARIES OF BROWN COUNTY

The Junior Pioneer Association is now making plans to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the first settlement of the original Brown County of Minnesota Territory. Could you give us the following information or direct us to sources where we can find it : The legislative act organizing Brown County in Minnesota Territory; the discussion in the legislature in regard to naming that county; and the subsequent acts reducing the original county?

AUGUST HUMMEL, New Ulm

The legislative act which established Brown County was an omnibus measure which related to twenty-five counties of Minnesota Territory. It was approved on February 20, 1855. The following section, printed in the territorial *Laws* for 1855 (p. 26), refers to Brown County: "Sec. 19. That so much of the territory as was formerly included within the county of Blue Earth, and has not been included within the boundaries of any other county, as herein established, shall be known as the county of Brown." The northeastern, eastern, and southern boundaries of the area of the huge county thus established are indicated on the sketch map which accompanies this report.

The process of reduction in size began in 1857 when an extra session of the legislature established the counties of Martin, Jackson, Cottonwood, Murray, Nobles, Rock, and Pipestone, all carved out of the original Brown County. Martin County took over a part of the area originally included within Faribault County. The act of 1857, which is printed in the *Laws* for the extra session of 1857 (ch. 14, p. 66), also established two counties, Big Sioux and Medway, which lay outside the boundaries of the state upon its admission. No attempt has been made to show the boundaries of these counties on the accompanying map.

By an act approved on February 25, 1860, provision was made for the establishment of the county of Watonwan. The temporary county seat of the new county was to be located at

Madelia and the county was to be attached to Brown County for judicial purposes. Section 3 of the act provided for a popular vote by the electors of Brown County, at the next general election, for or against the organization of the new county. If a majority voted for such organization, "then and thereafter said County of Watonwan shall be established as above described." See the Minnesota *Special Laws* for 1860

(ch. 13, p. 66). The establishment of the county was ratified by a large majority in the November, 1860, election.

Provision for the establishment of Redwood County was made in an act approved on February 6, 1862, which defined the new western boundary of Brown County and designated the territory cut off from the old county as Redwood County, with a proviso that "this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its ratification by the voters of Brown County, as provided in section three of this act." The law is printed in the *Special Laws* for 1862 (ch. 21, p. 255). Popular ratification of the act was given, apparently, at the next general election.

An act of 1864, approved on March 4 and printed in the *Laws* for 1864 (p. 337), provided for a western extension of Brown County at the expense of Cottonwood and Redwood counties — two townships in each. The proposition was to be submitted to a vote of the people of the three counties. As Cottonwood County was unorganized no vote was cast there, and only 14 votes were cast in Redwood County, whereas in Brown County 287 votes were given in favor of the change and none against it. In John A. Brown's *History of Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota,* 1:91 (Indianapolis, 1916), the townships taken from Cottonwood County are designated as "stolen" townships. "Much has been said and written in times past concerning the two civil townships that should have been left as a part of Cottonwood county, but which, through trickery, were stolen and added to Brown County," writes Brown. An act approved on March 6, 1871, which was intended to restore the townships, 108, ranges 34 and 35, and 109, ranges 34 and 35, to Cottonwood and Redwood counties respectively upon approval of a majority of the voters of the three counties, appears in the *Laws* for that year (p. 311). Such approval was not given. Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, in his *History of Redwood County, Minnesota,* 1:175 (Chicago, 1916) states that the vote was taken in November,

1871, and that the proposition to return the townships was defeated. He remarks that the " anxiety of the people of Redwood county to secure these two townships is explained by the fact that the region in dispute was then supposed to contain coal and iron. "

In 1873 Emory Clark, an attorney of Windom, wrote a vigorous protest to the *Windom Reporter* against the retention of the disputed area by Brown County. This protest is printed in full in Brown's *History of Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties,* 1 : 91–93. A portion of Clark's letter deserves quotation :

> Now it is contended by some, that as the act provided for a vote of the three counties on the proposition and one of these counties was then unorganized, the result of the election in 1864 did not effect a change of the county lines; and moreover that the law itself was unconstitutional, as it endorsed more than one subject which was not expressed in the title. Be that as it may, we still find in the General Statutes of 1866, chapter 8, section 16, that the boundary line of Cottonwood county is the same as established on May 29, 1857.
>
> The interests of Cottonwood county requires [*sic*] an early determination of this state of doubt as to the county line. The assessed valuation of the lands alone in these two townships amounted to $15,000, besides it embraces one-tenth of the whole territory of the county. The tax and benefit of these townships are now being enjoyed by Brown county. The authorities of Cottonwood county should be as vigilant of the county lines as a farmer is of his farm boundary lines.

To this protest by Clark, Brown adds the following comment, " It will be remembered that the vote was taken on this question in 1864 — a time when Cottonwood county had been depopulated by the Indian uprising of 1862, and many of the settlers in Redwood and Cottonwood counties had not yet returned to their claims. " Neither Brown nor Clark makes any reference to the act of 1871.

A glance at the map will show that the area in dispute was never returned to Redwood and Cottonwood counties. There

has been no further change in the boundaries of Brown County since the addition of 1864.

The county, as is well known, was named in honor of Joseph Renshaw Brown. No record has been found of the discussion in the legislature apropos of the naming of the county.

T. C. B.

VARIATIONS OF THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN CASS AND CROW WING COUNTIES, 1887–98

In re Crow Wing and Cass Counties, Minnesota.

I am about to prepare a petition for a division of these counties, or rather, to have the southwest corner of Cass County made a part of Crow Wing County. This part of Cass County contains about nineteen sections, and extends from Pine River down to Pillager.

We understand that part of Cass County formerly belonged to Crow Wing County, and we have looked over some Minnesota reports as some of these matters were discussed or decided by the Supreme Court of Minnesota, mainly 23 Minnesota, 40; 64 Minnesota, 378; 66 Minnesota, 519.

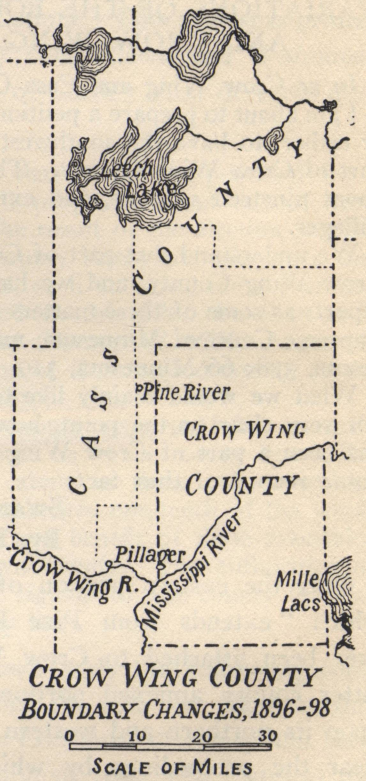
What we would mainly like to know is, since these cases are not very clear on the point, how long this part of Cass County has been a part of Crow Wing County, and we hope you have some record of that fact.

SWANSON AND SWANSON, Lawyers
By HILDING SWANSON, Brainerd

Only the eastern portion of that section of Cass County which "extends from Pine River down to Pillager" has ever been attached to Crow Wing County. In 1896 the latter county annexed portions of Cass County bordering upon its northern and western boundaries. In order to make clear the proceedings by which the annexation was made, however, it is necessary to review something of the history of the counties.

Cass County was established in 1851 and Crow Wing County in 1855. The latter county was organized in 1870, and, in 1872, Cass County was organized. The organization of Cass County was abandoned in 1876, however, and the county re-

mained without organization until 1897. Previous to 1887 the Mississippi River marked the western border of Crow Wing County, but in that year the area of the county was more than doubled by the addition of all the territory now within its borders and west and north of the Mississippi — land which had belonged to the unorganized county of Cass. In 1896, under the provisions of an act approved March 21, 1895, "for the enlargement of organized counties by attaching thereto and incorporating therein territory from an adjoining unorganized county," Crow Wing County again annexed a portion of Cass County. The act is published as chapter 298 of the Minnesota *Laws* for 1895 (p. 696–698).



The act provided that petitions signed by fifty-five per cent of the legal voters of the county wishing to attach territory and by fifty-five per cent of the voters of the "territory proposed to be attached" be presented to the secretary of state. "Then said secretary of state shall at once file said petitions and immediately notify the governor and state auditor of the receipt of the same, and they shall immediately meet and consider said petitions, and if they be found to conform to law, they or a majority of them, shall so certify, and immediately thereupon the governor shall issue his proclamation . . . declaring

the said territory described in said petition detached from the unorganized county or counties of which it was formerly a part and attached to and incorporated within said organized county."

In October and November, 1895, petitions asking for the annexation of certain portions of Cass County to Crow Wing County were circulated in the districts concerned and on November 30 they were presented to the secretary of state. On February 19, 1896, the "state annexation commission" met in the governor's office to act upon the petition. Governor David M. Clough voted against the addition of territory to Crow Wing County, but State Auditor Robert C. Dunn and Secretary of State Albert Berg approved the annexation. The governor thereupon issued his proclamation, which is published in four weekly issues of the *Brainerd Dispatch* beginning February 28. Preliminary proceedings are reported in the issues of the same newspaper for November 1, 1895, and February 21, 1896.

The territory thus annexed to Crow Wing County and described in the governor's proclamation is outlined on the accompanying map by the broken line running through Pine River and touching Leech Lake at the north. This district remained a part of Crow Wing County until January 6, 1898, when, by a decision of the state supreme court in which the procedure by which the annexation had been made was declared illegal, this county was reduced to its former limits and Cass County was again enlarged. The case is recorded in 66 *Minnesota,* 519–535.

B. L. H.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Journal of a Voyage to North America. Translated from the French of PIERRE FRANÇOIS XAVIER DE CHARLEVOIX; edited with historical introduction, notes, and index, by LOUISE PHELPS KELLOGG, PH.D. In two volumes. (Chicago, The Caxton Club, 1923. xxviii, 362, x, 381 p. Map.)

This new edition of Charlevoix's journal, based on the English edition of 1761, is beautifully printed and bound and the editorial notes add much to its interest. Charlevoix's travels in New France and Louisiana during the years from 1720 to 1722 did not bring him to Minnesota, but his narrative presents a valuable picture of French colonial society and its wilderness background and the editor's introduction in this edition sketches the early history of French explorations in the interior. A feature of the introduction of special interest to Minnesota readers is the statement that Du Luth, when at Mille Lacs in 1679, "heard from some visiting Indians of a great body of salt water in the west, which he conceived to be the sea, but which was in all probability the Great Salt Lake. Duluth sent westward three of his men, to search for this reported salt water, who got no farther than Big Stone Lake on the western border of Minnesota" (p. xii). Du Luth's own statement about this expedition is very vague and, if Dr. Kellogg is able to establish her interpretation, she will render an important service to Minnesota history. It is understood that the subject will be dealt with more fully in her forthcoming history of the French régime in Wisconsin.

S. J. B.

The American Livestock and Meat Industry. By RUDOLPH ALEXANDER CLEMEN, M.A., Associate Editor, *The National Provisioner;* Formerly Instructor in Economics and History, Northwestern University. (New York, The Ronald Press Company, 1923. ix, 872 p. Illustrations.)

The growth of the livestock and packing industry from the annual hog-killing on the pioneer farm to the status of the largest

industry in the United States, employing in the fields of production and marketing one out of every six workers, "is dramatic in the extreme." The author of the volume under review has caught the spirit of it all, — the vastness of the open range, the noise and smoke of the stockyards, and the relentless pressure which carries the doomed animals from the grazing lands of the country to the ax and cleaver of the slaughter house, — but he marshals his facts and figures with the dispassionate attitude of the economist and historian.

Mr. Clemen recognizes at the outset the vastness of his task and wisely refers his readers to numerous monographs on special phases of his subject through the judicious use of footnotes. A detailed bibliography for each chapter is given in a thirty-page appendix. As a result of the method pursued, the book gives a very satisfactory picture of the livestock and meat industry without being tiresome to the general reader. Minnesota readers might well expect that more attention would be given to the stockyards and packing operations of the great plants at South St. Paul, but the overwhelming size of the Chicago operations has practically driven out of the author's mind the activities of other cities. He evidently considers that a discussion of the smaller markets would be superfluous.

The book is well assembled, carefully edited, supplied with a table of contents and an adequate index, and judiciously illustrated with photographs and charts.

WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, JR.

Women of Red River, Being a Book Written from the Recollections of Women Surviving from the Red River Era. By W. J. HEALY, Provincial Librarian of Manitoba. (Winnipeg, The Women's Canadian Club, 1923. 261 p. Illustrations.)

Though this "Tribute to the Women of An Earlier Day," as the title page characterizes it, relates mainly to a region outside the United States, it deserves mention in this quarterly because of the many passing references which it contains to early conditions and people in Minnesota. The closeness of the ties

between the Red River colony and early St. Paul stands out again and again in casual remarks in these reminiscences of Red River women, as a few examples will indicate. Mrs. William Cowan, daughter of James Sinclair, a prominent merchant in the colony and one doing considerable trade with St. Paul, describes a journey by Red River carts across the plains to St. Paul in the spring of 1848, when she and her sister were on their way to attend Knox College in Illinois. When nearing St. Paul she saw a newly built log cabin. It was the home of that prince of Northwest guides, Pierre Bottineau, solitary dweller where Minneapolis now rises. In 1850 she made the return trip, again through Minnesota, and under great difficulties, for much of the northern country was flooded. At Pembina the travelers found Norman W. Kittson's house almost surrounded by water, and at that point they were obliged to engage boats for the remainder of the journey. The floods prevented Mr. Sinclair from taking his family to Oregon as he had planned when he shipped all his household goods, including a piano, across the plains and down the river to St. Louis. One need not fear contradiction in stating that this was the first piano freighted across Minnesota.

In Mrs. Robert Tait's reminiscences is a description of one of Winnipeg's oldest houses: "'All the oak and walnut woodwork for the house . . . and the sashes and doors and the walnut furniture we had were brought across the plains from St. Paul in Red River Carts.'" Mrs. Robert Henderson, too, mentions the trips which her father made across the prairies to St. Cloud and St. Paul, on one of which, in the late sixties, he procured the first glass lamp owned in the colony.

One of the men most often mentioned in these reminiscences is James W. Taylor, agent and later consul for the United States at Winnipeg. Mrs. Henry D. Macdonald speaks of him as "'Mr. Taylor . . . whom everybody knew.'" It is interesting to find that a man so well known and respected in Minnesota was such an important figure in the pioneer life of Winnipeg. It is also interesting to note how much is made of Whittier's poem, "The Red River Voyageur." Its haunting first lines are certainly among his best, and those describing the St. Boniface bells in their "turrets twain" seem to have expressed for

dwellers along the Red River their emotions at the familiar sight of the beautiful old church. The finest of many fine pen and ink sketches in the volume depicts the cathedral as seen across the stream.

From the point of view of the student it is unfortunate that the book has no index. He should be willing, however, to overlook this flaw in gratitude for the fact that the recollections of these pioneer women have been garnered before it is too late and presented in such fashion that they show, not the glory nor the grandeur, to be sure, but the essence of hardihood and idyllic simplicity that was old Winnipeg and her sister towns on the Red River.

GRACE LEE NUTE

St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press, April 27, 1924. (75th Anniversary Edition — vol. 71, no. 118. 100 p. Illustrations.)

Newspapers may not possess souls, but there is no doubt that they have personalities, according to Miss Lucy M. Salmon, the author of an exhaustive treatise on *The Newspaper and the Historian.* Not only does the newspaper have a personality but it also is a force in the life of the community which it serves. It is therefore an entirely natural thing for those who are vitally interested in a paper to trace its history in relation to the locality and the state, to write its biography, as it were. Several eastern newspapers — for example, the *New York Times* — have recently been the subjects of adequate historical accounts published in book form. Many newspapers in the West have celebrated significant anniversaries of their founding by publishing special historical editions. One of the most notable recent Minnesota publications of this type is the "75th Anniversary Edition" of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press.*

The *Pioneer Press* comes honestly by its name, for it has the honor of being the direct descendant of the first newspaper published in Minnesota, James M. Goodhue's *Minnesota Pioneer.* Its history runs parallel with that of Minnesota from 1849 to the present and is worthy of a somewhat more ambitious treatment than that afforded in an anniversary edition of the paper. In fact, a book dealing in comprehensive and scholarly fashion

with the story of this newspaper would be a genuine contribution to Minnesota history. By tracing the story of the paper's development, by analyzing its relation to the cultural life of the state, by recounting its political history, by scrutinizing its connections with the economic transitions since 1849, by studying its record of social life in Minnesota's capital, and by drawing upon its files for illustrations of conditions in other days, one could produce a book of exceptional interest which might illuminate the process by which Minnesota conditions of today have come to be what they are.

The anniversary edition under review does not take the place of such a volume; it does not contain a comprehensive history of the *Pioneer Press,* presented with due regard to orderly sequence; but it does direct attention to the possibilities of the subject, and it includes a number of articles of very considerable value. The place of honor is naturally given to a history of the *Pioneer Press* — a narrative in which the names of Goodhue, Joseph R. Brown, Earle S. Goodrich, Joseph A. Wheelock, Frederick Driscoll, Webster Wheelock, George Thompson, and C. K. Blandin figure prominently. Changes in newspaper management and details of personnel are not easily traced outside the offices of publication, and this account will therefore be welcomed by students interested in the history of the state's press. If this somewhat formal account could be combined with a study of the editorial policies of the paper through seventy-five years and a general evaluation of the paper's influence in the community, it would possess greatly increased value. Another useful article gives a detailed review of the contents of the first issue of Goodhue's *Pioneer.* Its record of territorial politics and its quaint advertisements call up for the reader vivid pictures of frontier social life. The contents of Goodhue's first issue are chiefly important as an indication of what the files of the paper for the early period contain.

Stories of pioneer conditions, most of which have been often told, are scattered throughout the edition. Incidents in river transportation are recalled by two veteran steamboat men in St. Paul, Captain Fred A. Bill and Captain George Winans.

The development of railroads under the guidance of James J. Hill is the subject of a long article. The story of the growth of the city as a jobbing center since 1855 and accounts of St. Paul business firms which trace their origins to pioneer days appear. The beginnings of the St. Paul school system and of police and fire protection for the city are touched upon. An article in the society section of the paper reflects in an interesting manner the unexpected brilliance and refinement of the social life of St. Paul as a frontier community. On the first page of this section a charming portrait of Mrs. A. P. Moss, which was painted in the fifties, is reproduced; pictures of James M. Goodhue and his bride are also included. In the rotogravure section portions of the first issue of the *Pioneer* are reproduced and some early views of St. Paul, including a picture of Red River carts on Third Street in 1859 and one of the steamboat landing in 1872, are published. These illustrations are excellent. By all means let the hypothetical book, to which reference has been made, be illustrated.

The student of history is primarily interested in newspapers as sources of information and therefore to him the files of a paper are of infinitely more value and interest than any formal history of the paper could be. Indeed one scholar has recently pronounced the periodical press the "most important single source the historian has at his command for the reconstruction of the life of the past three centuries." But these repositories of historical data have also been an influential part of the past which they record, and it is distinctly worth while for them occasionally to review their own history. Anniversary editions have great possibilities. Let us hope that in a few cases they may be the stepping stones to published volumes intended as serious contributions to Minnesota history.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

The most notable development in connection with the work of the society during the past three months is the appearance of the second volume of Dr. Folwell's *History of Minnesota*, the regular edition of which came from the press late in May. The special edition, copies of which are to be autographed by Dr. Folwell, were received from the printer in June. Copies of the book were distributed to members of the society soon after they were received. A review of the work will be published in the next number of the BULLETIN.

A full report of the third annual state historical convention, which was held at Detroit, Minnesota, on June 20 and 21, will appear in the November number of the BULLETIN. It is interesting to note that the summer meetings of 1922, 1923, and 1924, have been held in northeastern, southwestern, and northwestern Minnesota respectively. In all probability the fourth state historical convention will be held in some city situated in the southeastern section of the state.

Seventeen Minnesota counties and three other states are represented among the fifty-three additions to the active membership of the society during the three months ending June 30. These additions bring the total to 1,269. A list of names of the new members, grouped by counties, follows:

BECKER: Herman Goebel, Nels T. Jahren, and Dr. Leonard C. Weeks of Detroit; and Mrs. Sidney J. Huntley, Cecil M. Jones, and Arthur D. White of Frazee.

BROWN: Fred P. Starr of New Ulm.

FARIBAULT: Anita Fowler of Winnebago.

GOODHUE: Peter S. Aslakson and Dr. Samuel T. Conley of Cannon Falls.

HENNEPIN: Dr. Charles R. Drake, William W. Gilbert, Paul de Hoffman, John F. McGovern, Ray P. Murphy, Mrs. Louise R. Phelps, John R. Randall, Oscar L. Schutz, George M.

Schwartz, Mrs. James Thurston, and Mrs. Cavour L. Truesdale, all of Minneapolis.

JACKSON: Joseph N. Prokes of Jackson.

LYON: Marvin E. Mathews of Marshall.

MCLEOD: Joseph M. Eheim of Hutchinson.

MARSHALL: Dr. Theodor Bratrud of Warren.

OLMSTED: Dr. Herman C. Bumpus, William W. Churchill, Job T. Collin, Harry J. Harwick, and John H. Kahler, all of Rochester.

POLK: Dr. Truman L. Stickney of Crookston.

RAMSEY: Frederick J. Alway, Ralph Budd, Eugene P. Danz, Reverend Fritz C. Hamlin, Everett B. Kirk, George F. Lindsay, Thomas J. McDermott, Mrs. Henry Nichols, Robert A. Rice, Dr. Arthur Sweeney, John W. Taylor, and James H. Wilkinson, all of St. Paul.

REDWOOD: Dr. H. M. Juergens of Sanborn.

ST. LOUIS: Edward W. Johnson of Floodwood and Dr. Owen W. Parker of Ely.

STEARNS: Reverend Cuthbert Goeb of Collegeville.

STEELE: Francis W. Sawyer of Owatonna.

WINONA: Willard L. Hillyer of Winona.

NONRESIDENT: Mrs. Charles N. Nelson of Santa Barbara, California; L. S. Conger of Medford, Massachusetts; Susan H. Olmstead of New York City; and Fendall G. Winston, Jr., of Old Forge, New York.

One institutional member, the Becker County Historical Society, Dr. Leonard C. Weeks, president, has been enrolled during the last quarter.

The society lost six active members by death during the last quarter: John A. Berkey of Lake City, April 4; Mrs. Henry P. Barlow of St. Paul, April 18; Edward M. Van Cleve of Minneapolis, April 19; Mrs. Thomas Cochran of St. Paul, May 22; Dr. Walter Courtney of Brainerd, June 23; and James A. Ridgway of Minneapolis, June 25. The death of the Honorable Charles C. Willson of Rochester, an active member, on November 1, 1922, has not previously been reported in the BULLETIN.

The number of subscriptions to the society's publications from schools and public libraries has been increased to 144 by the addition of three institutions during the last quarter. These include the public library of Madison and the public schools of Brown's Valley and Cass Lake.

"Some Fur-traders of Early Minnesota" was the title of the twelfth talk in the monthly series given by representatives of the society at the Twin City radio station WLAG. This was given on April 21 by Dr. Grace Lee Nute, the society's curator of manuscripts. On May 20, Miss Mary E. Wheelhouse, who has served as the society's chief editorial assistant in the preparation for the press of Dr. Folwell's second volume, spoke on "Glimpses of Minnesota in the '60's" as revealed in that book. The subject of the fourteenth talk, "The Red River Valley in Minnesota History," given on June 16 by Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, assistant superintendent of the society, was chosen in order to call special attention to the historical background of the region in which the third state historical convention was to be held.

Several speeches on the society's work or on historical subjects were given by members of the society's staff during the months of April, May, and June. The superintendent delivered the commencement address at the graduation exercises on May 29 of the Belgrade High School. On April 28 the assistant superintendent addressed the Hamline Fortnightly Study Club of St. Paul at its annual luncheon on the subject, "The Minnesota Pattern: An Interpretation," and on May 17 he spoke on "The Winning of Constitutional Liberty in Norway" to the faculty and students of Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis. The curator of the museum gave a speech entitled "An Illustrated Ramble through Minnesota History" in the society's auditorium before the members of the Hamline Fortnightly Study Club on April 7. He represented the society at the Hibbing meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society on April 22 (see *post*, p. 524).

Two members of the society's staff, Dr. Solon J. Buck, superintendent, and Dr. Grace L. Nute, curator of manuscripts, attended the annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association at Louisville, Kentucky, on May 1 to 3. From Louisville Dr. Nute went to Indianapolis to examine the Ewing Papers at the Indiana State Library, a collection of manuscripts which, in her opinion, is "of extreme importance for Minnesota history" as a supplement to the papers of the American Fur Company (see *post,* p. 505). She then visited Urbana, Illinois, primarily for the purpose of inspecting a collection of transcripts from Spanish archives which has been made for the University of Illinois. From Illinois Dr. Nute went to Madison, Wisconsin, where she visited the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

A series of brief articles under the general heading of "Minnesota Trail Blazers" is appearing in the society's monthly press bulletin, the *Minnesota Historical News.* Accounts of the following explorers have already been included: La Perrière, Le Sueur, La Vérendrye, Hennepin's companions (Accault and Auguelle), Catlin, Cass, and Nicollet.

The coöperation of the society and the University of Minnesota was stressed in a series of articles published in the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* for May 1 under the titles, "The Historical Society and the University," "Educational Work of the Society," "A Library of Priceless Books and Papers," and "Two Volumes of Dr. Folwell's History Completed."

Many were the uses made of the society's library during the months of April, May, and June. Requests for information were received relating to such varied subjects as Indian legends of Minnesota; Dakota names for plants; the state's iron mines; the location of Lake Memphremagog; the number of Norwegians in Minnesota during the period from 1860 to 1920; the history of the Minnesota Historical Society; third party movements in the West; prominent Minnesotans such as James J. Hill, Knute Nelson, Cushman K. Davis, Charlotte Van Cleve, Maria Sanford, and Alexander Ramsey; the history of Shakopee; and the his-

tory of Hamline University; not to speak of the philosophy of Plato, the Spanish Inquisition, and numerous other subjects which have little or nothing to do with Minnesota history. In some cases the resources of the main library need to be supplemented by manuscripts in order to give the desired information. For example, an inquirer wished to know which was the colder day, January 1, 1863, or January 1, 1864. A manuscript record of Minnesota temperatures furnished an exact answer to this question. During the three months ending June 30, 12,695 books were served in the library to 2,035 readers as compared with 10,102 books and 1,971 readers during the corresponding three months of 1923.

That the society's newspaper collection is of value for several interesting types of investigation is evident from the fact that during the three months ending June 30, 315 readers consulted 772 volumes of newspapers. Of these readers, 217 were engaged in historical research, 8 were searching for items needed in connection with legal investigation, 17 were hunting for material which had to do with the political situation in the state, and 75 were in search of materials for other purposes.

During the months of April, May, and June, 1,449 teachers and students representing 51 classes visited the society's museum. Of this total, 975 were from St. Paul, 228 from Minneapolis, and 246 from points outside the Twin Cities. These figures indicate that advantage is being taken by the schools of the direct visual appeal which the museum makes to students.

In connection with the compilation of a bibliography of Minnesota newspapers and an inventory of extant files, which is being carried on in coöperation with the University of Minnesota (see *ante,* p. 302), Mr. Bryce E. Lehman, a graduate student of the university, has made several trips recently to different parts of the state for the purpose of collecting data. For the following fifteen counties the work is now approaching completion: Anoka, Blue Earth, Dakota, Freeborn, Goodhue, Le Sueur, Morrison, Nicollet, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Scott, Todd, Wabasha, Wadena, and Winona. Incidentally Mr. Lehman, on his trips,

located duplicate files in some of the newspaper offices, from which it is believed selections can be made to fill gaps in the society's files.

The first chapter in the second volume of Dr. Folwell's *History of Minnesota* is reprinted in the *Minneapolis Journal* for May 4 under the title "How Minnesota Annexed the United States Told by Dr. Folwell on State's Birthday." A feature story entitled "Minnesota's Own Home-made War of Rebellion," in the *Journal* for June 8, which tells the story of the "Wright County War" of 1859, is based on the account of that event in the same volume.

Two members of the staff, Miss Gertrude Krausnick, librarian, and Miss Clara M. Penfield, cataloguer, attended the meeting of the American Library Association at Saratoga Springs, New York, from June 30 to July 5.

The position of head cataloguer on the society's staff, which has been vacant since February 1, has been filled by the appointment of Miss Alice M. Humiston, who has held a similar position in the library of Montana University. In the meantime Miss Clara M. Penfield of the catalogue staff has directed the work of the department.

Accessions

Photostatic copies of a number of manuscripts in the Bibliothèque St. Sulpice of Montreal have recently been added to the society's collection of material from that source and other Montreal depositories (see *ante,* p. 305–307). These papers relate to the fur trade and to Jonathan Carver and the enterprise of seeking a northwest passage to the Pacific. They include petitions from Montreal merchants requesting that licenses be granted more freely than had been the case in the past to traders desiring to winter in the Indian country; replies to these petitions from Sir William Johnson, Robert Rogers, the governor of the province of Quebec, and others concerned in matters of Indian trade; and some other correspondence of value for students of

the fur trade which centered at Montreal and Mackinac after the close of the Seven Years' War.

About three thousand cards for American Fur Company Papers have been received by the society during the months of April, May, and June from the agent in New York who is calendaring this important collection of manuscripts (see *ante*, p. 457). Many of these cards are for the letters to Ramsay Crooks from the St. Louis firms of Pratte, Chouteau and Company and Pierre Chouteau, Jr., and Company. Since these firms were interested in the Minnesota fur trade and since men like Henry H. Sibley and Martin McLeod worked under the direction of one of them, these letters are of considerable value for students of Minnesota history. The society has also received photostatic copies of several groups of these papers of special Minnesota interest, including letters of Lyman M. Warren, one of the foremost traders in Wisconsin and Minnesota under the American Fur Company régime; letters of William A. Aitken, who for many years was the company's factor in the Minnesota region, with headquarters at Sandy Lake; additional letters of Gabriel Franchère (see *ante*, p. 458); and some of the letters of William Brewster, who was the company's general agent at Detroit. A letter from James Warren to his brother Lyman has been received for copying from the Becker County Historical Society and two letters written by Lyman Warren have been received from his daughter, Mrs. Julia Spears of Detroit, together with several papers of family interest written by Mrs. Spears.

The most interesting and valuable item in a small group of papers once in the possession of Levi W. Stratton, a pioneer storekeeper of St. Anthony, which have recently been presented to the society by his daughter, Miss Ella M. Stratton of Excelsior, is a paper entitled "Sketches & Incidents of a Trip from St. Louis to Fort Snellin[g] in July 1838." Although this paper is incomplete, it contains much interesting information about the river traffic, the Indians, and the river towns. The

other items of the group consist chiefly of bills and receipts of early St. Paul and St. Anthony firms.

In the study of the settlement of an American frontier, baptismal registers are very useful to the historian. Hence one of the services which historical societies can render is to make known the location of such records and to transcribe them when necessary. Recently an opportunity to perform a service of this kind has been afforded the society. In June, 1914, the Reverend John F. Kempker, assistant priest of St. Patrick Church in Dubuque, Iowa, made careful transcripts of many items in the original baptismal register of St. Raphael's Cathedral in Dubuque. Through the courtesy of the Reverend William Busch of St. Paul Seminary, an opportunity to make copies of these valuable records has been given to the society. Of chief interest to Minnesotans are the records of baptisms by Bishop Loras of Dubuque while on an early trip to the Minnesota and Wisconsin region. On his visit to St. Peter's in 1839 he baptized no less than forty-nine persons; at "St. Crois" he baptized four, and at Prairie du Chien nineteen. In the absence of birth records these lists of names are of great value.

Copies of four letters written by Madison Sweetser in October, 1851, to the Indiana fur-trading firm of W. G. and G. W. Ewing, from the Ewing Papers in the possession of the Indiana State Library at Indianapolis, have recently been received by the society (see *ante,* p. 501). Sweetser acted as agent in Minnesota for the Ewing firm. His interests were opposed to those of Ramsey and Sibley in the matter of the treaty of Traverse des Sioux and his comments on that treaty are of great interest. Another topic touched on in the letters is the advantage to be gained from securing an early claim in the Fort Snelling reserve. "I assure you," writes Sweetser to G. W. Ewing, "that it would result in a handsome speculation — this at no distant day is destined to be, the garden spot of America." Copies of other letters in the Ewing collection will soon be made for the society.

A considerable part of a collection of family papers presented to the society by Mrs. Louise Fridley Dye of Minneapolis is made up of the diaries, letters, and other papers of her grandfather, Abram M. Fridley, a prominent pioneer who settled at Long Prairie in 1851 as agent for the Winnebago Indians. Later he was a farmer at Manomin and still later he opened a large farm in the southwestern part of Sherburne County. The Fridley home was the county seat of the diminutive Manomin County, which was established in 1857 and became, after its fusion with Anoka County some thirteen years later, Fridley Township. This material in the Fridley Papers throws light on the brief existence of Minnesota's smallest county. The collection, which comprises six boxes of loose manuscripts and more than sixty bound volumes, includes other more recent family papers.

Within the last few years students of the history of the Northwest have come to realize the value of missionaries' diaries, letters, and reminiscences for accounts of the obscure origins of many settlements and organizations in the region. One of the latest contributions to the ever-increasing fund of such information is the reminiscences of Mr. Frank B. Cressey of Cambridge, Massachusetts, whose father, E. W. Cressey, came to St. Paul as a Baptist minister in 1852 and remained as pastor and home missionary until he enlisted in the army as chaplain of the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War. Much information about St. Paul and about persons and events of interest in early Minnesota is contained in the reminiscences, which, in manuscript form, have been presented to the society. A description of the eventful and often hazardous life of a home missionary in the years just preceding the Civil War gives the document the flavor of adventure which characterizes the accounts of practically all the early Minnesota missionaries.

"Minnesota and Dacotah, or the Red-River of the North; With an account of the Rich and Fertile country along its banks in Minnesota and Dacotah" is a title of a manuscript by Increase A. Lapham, of Milwaukee, owned by the State Historical Society

of Wisconsin, of which a transcript has recently been secured. In its typed form it consists of 208 pages, including a few photostatic copies of maps and diagrams. For its early account of the Red River Valley its value is very considerable. Lapham himself made a tour in 1857 of a large portion of the valley and he quotes long extracts from the records of other travelers who knew the region at first hand. The document gives an historical sketch of the valley, a topographical sketch, a long list of its flora and fauna, and an estimate of its value for settlement. In closing Lapham mentions some of the towns that were springing up and gives advice to prospective settlers. He evidently was "booming" certain towns, and this entire work, which was written in 1858, was arranged for publication with that end in view. It seems to have remained unprinted, however. On the whole it is an unusually accurate and reliable account of the region. An interesting biographical sketch of its author appears in volume 1 of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* (p. 3–15) under the title "Increase A. Lapham, First Scholar of Wisconsin," by Milo M. Quaife.

Some twenty letters, mainly of the fifties and sixties, have been added by Mr. Ulysses G. Herrick of Minneapolis to the collection of family letters recently presented by him to the society (see *ante*, p. 459).

The Civil War diary of Sergeant Matthew Marvin, Company K, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, together with about sixty of his war letters, has been presented to the society by his daughter, Miss Mabel L. Marvin of Winona.

Those who are interested in knowing the airs to which some of the Union troops marched to battle can gain some hints from the titles of the scores for the snare drum written out in William W. Woodberry's manuscript music book kept at Fort Snelling during the Civil War period and now presented to the society by Mrs. George E. Tuttle of Minneapolis.

Diaries kept faithfully day by day are reckoned among the most valuable historical documents, not only because of their de-

tail, but also because of their accuracy and honesty. A little diary kept by Captain Loren W. Collins on Sibley's expedition against the Sioux in 1863 and presented recently by his sons, Messrs. Stewart and Louis L. Collins of Minneapolis, carries the story of the expedition from its start at Camp Pope on June 16, 1863, through all its tedious marches, exciting buffalo chases, and encounters with Indians, with glimpses of an untamed and almost unknown region, and back to Fort Snelling on September 12. It is an excellent supplement to several other manuscript diaries kept on expeditions against the Indians or across the plains in the sixties and now preserved by the society.

Mr. Edward E. Ayer of Chicago, the founder of the famous Ayer Collection in the Newberry Library, has presented to the society a copy of his reminiscences, in which he tells how he crossed the plains to California in 1860, worked in the mines, enlisted and served in the army during the Civil War, and returned to Illinois in 1864. Mr. Ayer's interest in book collecting was awakened through the reading of Prescott's *Conquest of Mexico* while in command of a force guarding the Sierra Colorado silver mine, fifty-five miles south of Tucson.

An account of early St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids and items of interest on logging methods and loggers on the Mississippi and its branches are to be found in the reminiscences of Mr. Wright T. Orcutt of Minneapolis, entitled "Fifty-eight Years in Minnesota," which he has recently presented to the society. Mr. Orcutt, who came to the state in 1866, has a remarkable memory for names, and his lists of pioneers, lumbering concerns, and business men are of distinct value for the study of local history in the region with which he deals.

The diary of Frank Johnson, a copy of which has been received from Mrs. Lily E. Dix of Detroit, covers the period from March 26, 1871, to March 28, 1872, and tells of the varied experiences of a man who came to Minnesota to find work; lived for a time in Duluth and in Brainerd; served as a telegraph operator at Crow Wing, where he became acquainted with Indians and old

traders and saw a grand medicine dance and a game of lacrosse; and moved to Detroit Lake and thence to Otter Tail City, Oake Lake, and Bethel in front of the advancing tracks of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Johnson was in Moorhead when the first engine entered that town and he tells in his diary about the celebration which accompanied that event.

To the society's collection of papers of Stanford Newel, United States minister to the Netherlands from 1897 to 1905, which include valuable materials on the first peace conference at the Hague (see *ante,* 4: 169), Mr. David W. Morison of St. Paul has added recently Newel's diplomas from Yale University as bachelor and master of arts.

An account of the life of Joseph Pecore, written by Mr. Cotter Randall of Duluth, has been presented to the society by the author. Pecore, who died in Duluth on November 15, 1923, was born in New York state in 1820 of French and Canadian stock. As a lad of fifteen he accompanied his father on a canoe voyage from Montreal to the Red River settlement. The return trip by snowshoes overland to Sault Ste. Marie was made the following winter under great difficulties. In 1862 Pecore again came west, this time drawn by the lure of the Caribou "diggins" in British Columbia. He arrived at Georgetown, on the Red River, in time to join a northward-bound train of emigrants. Threats from Sioux Indians caused the procession to turn back, however, and to seek the shelter of Fort Abercrombie. Pecore returned to Canada, but in 1869 he succeeded in getting to the Pacific coast. In 1870 he settled in Barron County, Wisconsin, where he became a successful farmer. Mr. Randall's article is based upon Pecore's own recollections, at the age of 103, of his varied experiences.

Some interesting material representing the participation of Minnesota men in the Civil War has recently been added to the society's collection of military objects. The uniform coat, canteen, bayonet and scabbard, and cap box of Sergeant Matthew Marvin of Company K, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry,

have been presented by his daughter, Miss Mabel Marvin of Winona; and a silk flag made by ladies of the Twin Cities for Company A, Second United States Sharpshooters, has been presented by Mrs. J. A. Gansett of Evansville, whose father, David Owens of Anoka, was mustered out as captain of that company.

To the society's collection of objects illustrating the history of American domestic life have been added an antique walnut washstand, presented by Mrs. Florence Belcher of Minneapolis through the courtesy of Mrs. E. C. Chatfield; a haircloth-covered walnut divan and an old clock, given by Mr. Christ Arnold of St. Paul; a blue Staffordshire washbowl and pitcher, a painted wooden hatbox of 1866, and several other articles presented by Mrs. George E. Tuttle of Minneapolis; a patchwork quilt of 1853 for a child's crib, a quilted evening wrap of 1871, and other interesting items presented by Miss Minnesota Neill of Minneapolis; a number of horn and tortoise-shell snuff boxes, a large brass kettle, and other articles given by Mrs. Louise Fridley Dye of Minneapolis; and a copper teakettle, several pieces of china, and a match safe, given by Mrs. G. C. Lambert of Bethel.

Reminiscent of the days of the fur trade and the conquest of the wilderness is a huge iron bear trap which has been received from Mr. Nelson Flint of North St. Paul and Mrs. May Jenkins. The jaws of the trap are lined with iron spikes.

Recent additions to the society's portrait collection include framed oil portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Abram M. Fridley, pioneer settlers of Manomin, — later named Fridley in their honor, — presented by Mrs. Dye (see *ante,* p. 506); and framed oil portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Simpson, early settlers of Winona, presented by their son, Mr. George T. Simpson of Minneapolis.

A framed sepia drawing of Fort Snelling about 1875, which represents the old post after the watch tower and much of the stone wall surrounding it had been removed but before the construction of the wagon bridge across the Mississippi, is the gift of Dr. Arthur Sweeney of St. Paul.

A gift of about sixty books has been received from Mrs. Nathaniel P. Langford of St. Paul, whose husband was president of the society from 1905 to 1911. The collection is indicative of Mr. Langford's interest in western exploration and includes a number of rarities. One of these, of which the society possessed no copy previously, is the *Message from the President of the United States Communicating Discoveries Made . . . by Captains Lewis and Clark* (Washington, 1806) — the first book relating to the Lewis and Clark expedition. Another item is a typewritten booklet entitled, "Table of Distances on the Missouri River from Fort Benton, Montana, to Saint Louis. Compiled by J. Allen Hosmer. Virginia City, Montana. 1866." From another source the society has acquired a small group of papers of Mr. Langford, the most important of which is a diary kept by him in Montana in 1863. The terse entries in this diary give vivid glimpses of the wild life on the mining frontier in the sixties.

NEWS AND COMMENT

In Mr. Arthur D. White's article in the present issue of the BULLETIN an excellent presentation is made of the case for teaching Minnesota history in the high schools of the state. Whether the desired end be achieved by one method or by another is relatively unimportant. It will doubtless be a long time before many high schools follow the example of the Frazee school in offering special courses in state history. A considerable number of teachers, however, are already attempting to correlate Minnesota history and national history in the general American history courses. This appeal to the natural interest of the student in his own background and in the environment with which he is familiar is of course pedagogically sound. But it is important to make it clear that the teaching of state history does more than merely add an element of interest. The study of local history is in accord with the general trend of American historiography at the present day — that trend for which Professor Frederick J. Turner and his disciples are in part responsible. The state does not occupy a position of splendid isolation but is intimately related to the larger area of which it is a natural part. Its political boundaries were originally artificial. To make the students understand that they are indeed part of the nation — as they are part of the world community — is a legitimate aim of the history teacher. The one-semester course in American history offers little opportunity for the teacher to go beyond the conventional story, but the present tendency is in the direction of a year course, and when this plan is generally adopted the correlation of American and Minnesota history should become general throughout the high schools of the state.

A suggestive brief statement of "The Present Status of Historical Writing in the United States," by Homer C. Hockett, appears in the *Ohio History Teachers' Journal* for January, 1924. In the March and May numbers of the same magazine is printed a series of four articles dealing with the *Chronicles of*

America series and the "Chronicles of America Photoplays" — Yale University's ambitious attempt to clothe American history in attractive dress and to present it to the multitudes. Special attention is given to the value of the photoplays for the teaching of American history. The articles are entitled "The Story of the Chronicles of America," by George P. Day, "The Chronicles of America in Motion Pictures," by Nathaniel W. Stephenson, "The Chronicles of America and the Teaching of History," by Ralph H. Gabriel, and "The Use of the 'Chronicles of America Motion Pictures' in Americanization," by Dixon R. Fox.

At the meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, held in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 1, 2, and 3, Dr. Milo M. Quaife, formerly superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and now in charge of the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library, was elected managing editor of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review.* Among the papers presented at the sessions were the following which dealt with topics of interest for Minnesota history: "The Marketing of Farm Implement Machinery, 1830–1860," by W. W. Leigh; "Points of Contact between History and Literature in the Mississippi Valley," by Dorothy Dondore; and "Origin of the Federal Department of Agriculture and of our State Agricultural Colleges," by Lyman Carrier.

The dedication of the William L. Clements Library of Americana at the University of Michigan on June 15, 1923, has resulted in a volume of proceedings which takes its title from the principal speech of the occasion, *The American Historian's Raw Materials: An Address,* by Dr. J. Franklin Jameson (Ann Arbor, 1923. 63 p.), in which the story of the assembling of collections of manuscripts and books of American history is sketched. With reference to recent historical work, Dr. Jameson writes, "In the main, the work of the last sixty years has consisted in the accumulation, sifting, and criticism of materials, work of the pick and spade, work of the quarryman and mason rather than of the architect. . . . After such an age . . . the

natural development is into an age of generalization, of synthesis, of history more largely governed and informed by general ideas." In an article on "The Shelburne Manuscripts in America," published in the February *Bulletin* of the Institute of Historical Research, Dr. Clarence W. Alvord draws attention to the great importance for students of the later colonial period of the collection of Shelburne Papers recently acquired by the Clements Library. The papers are of special value for the study of the Mississippi Valley in its relation to British politics in the period preceding the American Revolution. The Clements Library contains a remarkable collection of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, maps, and the like, assembled by a private collector, Mr. William L. Clements, and by him presented, along with an appropriate library building, to the University of Michigan. A delightful account of the collection, which covers the field of American history from the discovery down to the Revolution, has recently been published by Mr. Clements under the title *The William L. Clements Library of Americana* (Ann Arbor, 1923. 228 p.). Students of American history are keenly appreciative of the service rendered by this public-spirited book-lover whose enthusiasm and wealth have been directed into so useful a channel.

An informing paper on the "Evolution in Paper Money in the United States," by Dr. William W. Folwell, appears in the *Minnesota Law Review* for June.

Under the somewhat indefinite title, *North America in Days of Discovery* (Boston, 1923. 277 p.), Dr. A. J. Fynn of Denver University has produced an interesting book on the physical background of American history, the American Indians, and their interrelations. Chapters on the influence of the fauna and flora of the continent on aboriginal life are followed by a discussion of primitive methods of travel and transportation, with special reference to the influence of the environment. The greater part of the book, however, is devoted to accounts of Indian life in the various culture areas of the continent from "The Arctic Borderland" to "The American Egypt."

The relation of the United States government to missionary activities among the Indians with special reference to the period after 1862 is considered in an article entitled "A Problem of Church and State in the 1870's," by Martha L. Edwards, which is published in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for June. The author characterizes the federal act of 1871, the distinctive feature of which was "the plan of conferring upon religious bodies the right of nomination to civil office," as "a logical application of the precedent established fifty years earlier, when Calhoun as secretary of war had decided to expend the funds provided for Indian civilization through missionary societies." The article contains a number of references to the situation in Minnesota after the Sioux Outbreak.

"We were Caesars 'mong the mighty Sioux" is the opening line of the second stanza of a poem entitled "Groseilliers and Radisson," by Charles N. Webb, which is printed in the *Wisconsin Magazine* for May.

An interesting survey of the exploration of the northwestern part of North America comprises a lecture entitled "Western Trails and Pathfinders," by Lawrence J. Burpee, published in the *Reports and Proceedings* of the Kingston (Ontario) Historical Society for 1923. Of special Minnesota interest are the accounts of the La Vérendryes, the two Alexander Henrys, and David Thompson, who are dealt with at some length.

A study of "The Geography of the Northern Interior of the United States" by Helen M. Strong, is printed in the *Journal of Geography* for April.

Social conditions among middle western frontiersmen in the fifties are discussed in two articles in the *Palimpsest* for May, entitled "Hard Times in Early Iowa," by George F. Robeson, and "Stagecoach Days," by Orville F. Grahame.

The Lake Superior country is much in favor just now with writers of that ambiguous variety of books classified as "travels." *We Explore the Great Lakes,* by Webb Waldron (New York,

1923. 384 p.), contains much of Minnesota interest, including chapters on Duluth, the iron mines, and "Up the North Shore." *The Lake Superior Country,* by T. Morris Longstreth (New York, 1924. 360 p.), deals mainly with Canadian regions but includes an account of brief visits to Duluth and Grand Portage. Both works are illustrated, the former with sketches by Marion P. Waldron and the latter with excellent photographs. Neither author knows much about the history of the Northwest or is interested in any except its spectacular or romantic aspects. Nevertheless the books have a very real value for the student of the history of the region dealt with, for they furnish him with vivid impressions of the natural environment and they indicate what has been the outcome of that history to date.

An interesting addition to the records of steamboat traffic on the upper Mississippi is the account of the career of Captain George S. Hays in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for May 25. Captain Hays, whose portrait appears with the article, was connected with river traffic from the close of the Civil War until his death in 1894.

A study of agrarian political activity in the United States since the World War appears under the title "The American Farmer Enters Politics," by Elmer D. Graper, in *Current History* for February. The article includes a brief account of the "Rise of Farmer Labor Party."

Scandinavia (see *ante,* p. 465) continues to bring out articles of interest for the history of the Scandinavians in the United States. "The Tragedy of the Immigrant" with his devotion to his mother country and his adopted land is the theme of an article in the May number by Kristian Prestgard, translated from the Norwegian by Knut Gjerset. The author takes the view that to promote "the process of Americanization by force and coercion is as impossible and unnatural as to pass a law that this year all the young apple trees planted shall grow at least twelve feet." In the same number are articles on "The Swedes in Canada," by Axel V. Carlson, "The Finns in America," by Clemens Niemi, and "Two American Legends of Ole Bull," by

Albert O. Barton. In the June number there is an article entitled "On the Pioneer Trail of the Northwest: The Dagmar Colony," by Emil F. Madsen, which tells of a Danish settlement in Montana. An account of the "History of the Swedish Settlement at Proctor, Vermont," is contributed by Otto T. Johnson. Mr. Halldor Hermannsson tells about "The Fiske Icelandic Collection in Cornell University."

An interesting appeal to Norwegians to preserve the old letters received from emigrants in America is made in an article entitled "Ta Vare Paa Amerika-brevene" by Gunnar Malmin, published in *Nordmands-Forbundet* for February. The author tells of some of the interesting "America letters" which he has located in Norwegian archives. The most interesting of all, he says, is a letter by Gjert G. Hovland written from Rochester, New York, on April 22, 1835, a copy of which Mr. Malmin found in the royal archives. An English translation of this letter, noted in the "News and Comment" section of the BULLETIN for August–November, 1922, was published in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for June, 1922, and a transcription of the original is among the manuscripts of the Minnesota Historical Society.

A contribution to the history of the Norwegian element in the United States is made in an article on "Knud Henderson — Pioneer Norwegian Music Teacher," by Albert O. Barton, published in the *Wisconsin State Journal* of Madison for June 29. Much of the story, which relates to pioneer life in Wisconsin and Illinois, is told in Mr. Henderson's own words.

Plans are being made for a celebration at the Minnesota State Fair grounds from June 7 to 9, 1925, of the centennial of the arrival in America of the Norwegian immigrants who crossed the Atlantic in 1825 on the sloop "Restaurationen," settled in western New York, and paved the way for later Norwegian immigration to America.

A collection of *Documents Relating to the Erection of Wayne County and Michigan Territory* (Detroit, 1922–1923 [*sic*]. 45 p.) has been "printed by authority of the board of supervisors

for the county of Wayne, in accordance with act no. 254, Michigan Public Acts, 1919." The fact that it was prepared for publication by the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library is a guaranty of careful work; and its designation as *Historical Publications of Wayne County, Michigan,* numbers 1 and 2, indicates that more may be expected. When such official support of local historical work becomes general throughout the country the way will be prepared for an adequate interpretation of the history of the American people.

Attention is called to several groups of papers in the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library which throw light upon the fur trade and other activities of the British period in the Great Lakes region in an article entitled "'Who Was Who' in Michigan, 1760–1796," by "L. O. W.," in the *Michigan History Magazine* for April. "The papers of John Porteous, a Scotchman, from Perth, for the few years following 1762, are a cinema of life on the Great Lakes."

"The Northwestern Career of Jefferson Davis," by Milo M. Quaife, and "Commerce and Union Sentiment in the Northwest in 1860," by A. H. Kohlmier, are two of the papers in the *Transactions* of the Illinois State Historical Society for 1923 (368 p.). A considerable portion of the volume is devoted to a reprint of a rare book entitled *Sketches of the History of Stephenson County, Ill., and Incidents Connected with the Early Settlement of the North-west,* by William J. Johnston, which was published at Freeport in 1854.

An article on "Nelson Powell Hulst, 'The Greatest American Authority on Iron,'" by Ellis B. Usher, published in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for June, is of interest to Minnesota readers because Hulst was a mining engineer of Wisconsin who was for a time general manager of the Oliver Mining Company and "then general manager in charge of the Carnegie mining interests in all five iron ranges of the Lake Superior country." When he retired from active work in 1904 he was a vice president of the United States Steel Corporation. An article on "Ole

Bull and His Wisconsin Contacts," by Albert O. Barton, appears in the same magazine.

In a pageant on June 2 the history of the Wisconsin State Normal School at River Falls was pictured against a background of St. Croix Valley history. The pageant was the chief feature of the celebration of the semicentennial of the school. The story of its growth since 1874 is recounted in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for June 1.

General Minnesota Items

The *Gopher* of 1925, prepared by the Junior class of the University of Minnesota, is issued as an "Historical Gopher" and contains, in addition to a large number of illustrations of Minnesota historic sites and scenes, several articles of historical interest. Especially valuable is a section entitled "History of the University" which is divided into six chapters: "The Setting of the Stage, 1851–1869," "The Raising of the Curtain, 1869–1884," "The Years of Rising Action, 1884–1910," "The Dramatis Personae — Student Life," "The Dawn of the Greater University, 1911–1923," and "The Denouement: A Greater Minnesota." Mr. Albert W. Morse contributes a sprightly sketch entitled "Minnesota, the State" in which he mentions many dramatic episodes connected with its development.

The purpose of *A Story of Grand Portage and Vicinity Compiled from the Writings of Warren, Winchell, Neill and Buck,* by John B. Arnold (Duluth, 1923. 48 p.) is apparently to advertise Grand Portage Harbor. The author believes that "the finger of destiny points to Grand Portage as one of the future great maritime metropolises of the world." The pamphlet, as its title indicates, is a compilation from the writings of others. Considerable portions of the article entitled "The Story of the Grand Portage," by Solon J. Buck, published in this magazine for February, 1923 (see *ante,* p. 14–27) are embodied, without change, in Mr. Arnold's text. Several interesting maps and illustrations accompany the text.

Among the materials available for the use of grade teachers giving courses in Minnesota history is an outline entitled *Study of Minnesota for Use in the Fourth Grade and an Amplified Outline for the Study of Minnesota in the Sixth Grade,* by Antoinette E. Ford, published by the St. Paul Grade Teachers' Federation in 1915 (41 p.).

Minnesota pioneers gathered at the Old Capitol in St. Paul on May 10 for the annual meeting of the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers' Association; incidentally they celebrated the sixty-sixth anniversary of the state's admission to the Union. Since May 11, the date of admission, fell on Sunday, the meeting was held a day early.

The Minnesota society of the Daughters of American Colonists plans to erect a monument commemorating Hennepin's discovery of the Falls of St. Anthony at the east end of the Tenth Avenue Bridge in Minneapolis, according to an announcement in the *Minneapolis Journal* for June 8.

The address delivered by Dr. William Watts Folwell on the granting of the charter of the University of Minnesota (see *ante,* p. 467) appears in the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* for February 14.

The story of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra and its growth into a musical organization of national reputation is outlined in the *Minneapolis Journal* for June 1. Musical forbears of the orchestra in Minneapolis are noted; its organization in 1903 and the more spectacular events connected with its progress during twenty-one years are described. A photograph of the members of the first violin section of the orchestra at the time of its organization is reproduced with a brief note about the musicians in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for June 1.

"An Unpublished Chapter in Stage History" is the appropriate heading of the first installment of the reminiscences of Mr. L. N. Scott of St. Paul, which appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for June 22. Mr. Scott, who has managed theaters in St. Paul for forty-one years, unfolds an interesting narrative. He tells of his early employment on Commodore William F. Davidson's

river steamboats and of his transfer to the managership of a small St. Paul theater owned by the river magnate. The author describes his early experiences as a theatrical manager and mentions some of the famous actors who have appeared before St. Paul audiences in theaters under his management.

Services in commemoration of the eighty-ninth anniversary of the establishment of the first Protestant church in Minnesota were held at Fort Snelling on June 8.

The recent trip from Chicago to the Pacific coast of the "William Crooks," Minnesota's first locomotive, and of the new "Oriental Limited" of the Great Northern Railway is the subject of extensive newspaper comment about the pioneer locomotive during May. Coaches of the Civil War period were drawn by the "William Crooks" and in various cities along the route these were exhibited beside the luxurious modern coaches. In one of the articles occasioned by the overland journey and published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for June 1, the story of how James J. Hill built the Great Northern Railway is related by Mr. Hoke Smith, western development agent for the railroad.

Another phase of railroad history is touched upon in an interview published in the *St. Paul Daily News,* in which "Eugene V. Debs recounts how he was victorious over James J. Hill in St. Paul wage conference" during the railroad strike of 1894.

Veteran railroad men who were employed between 1863 and 1870 on any of the three lines which later united to form the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad, held their annual meeting in the Sibley House at Mendota on June 4.

An interesting account of a picturesque though unprofitable phase of pioneer enterprise, the attempt to pan gold from the rivers of southeastern Minnesota, appears in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for June 1. The article deals particularly with the activities in 1859 of the "Oronoco Mining company" and of one of its members, Mr. Caleb C. Emery, around the town of Oronoco. Mr. Emery's frontier farming operations near Oronoco, where he still resides, are also described.

In 1857 a German, Wendelin Grimm, from Kulsheim in the Grand Duchy of Baden came to Minnesota and located in Laketown Township, Carver County. With him he brought a bag containing fifteen or twenty pounds of alfalfa seed. On June 10, 1924, "hundreds of devotees of better agriculture, including college professors and extension workers, farmers and their families, business men and a number of direct descendants of this sturdy old German pioneer, made a pilgrimage to the original Grimm farm in Carver county, to commemorate his work and perpetuate his memory." A bronze tablet fastened to a large boulder was unveiled which bears the inscription, "Commemorating Wendelin Grimm, resident of Minnesota, 1857–1891, who originated Grimm alfalfa on this farm. Erected June, 1924, by Grimm Alfalfa Growers' Association." The importance of alfalfa growing to Minnesota agriculture and the value of Grimm's pioneering are discussed in a story by Charles F. Collisson, printed in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for June 15. That the simple tale is not without dramatic appeal may be seen from a feature story about Grimm in the *Minneapolis Journal* for June 15, which has this tremendous title, "The Farmer Who Made Pizarro Look Cheap and the Romantic Story of a Little Bag of Seed in an Immigrant's Trunk, and How It Grew on a Minnesota Hillside, into a Green Gold Mine That Yields an Annual Treasure Many Times More Valuable Than the Plunder of the Incas and the Loot of Aztec Temples."

How diversification in Minnesota agriculture saved the situation for the farmer who up to the eighties had specialized in wheat is told as one feature of an article entitled "Don't Worry about the Northwest," by G. R. Martin, in the *Nation's Business* for February.

A well-written account of the career of Colonel William Colvill by Mrs. C. N. Akers is printed in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for June 29 under the title "Minnesota's 'Fighting First' Made Famous Charge 61 Years Ago." Mrs. Akers, who was intimately acquainted with Colonel Colvill, prepared the account of his life for the Hamline Fortnightly Club, which devoted its programs during the past year to Minnesota history topics.

A pamphlet entitled *Personal Recollections of a Great Baconian, Hon. Ignatius Donnelly,* by Henry W. Wack, has been issued by the Bacon Society of America as a reprint from the *American Baconian* for November, 1923 (15 p.). Emphasis is placed upon the literary side of Donnelly's activities, particularly his contributions to the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy. The author characterizes Donnelly as "a unique factor in the land, a man of versatile genius; infinite wit, prodigious industry and quick human sympathies. He was also a gentleman of delightful pugnacities!" "Wherever the Sage of Nininger bellowed," he writes, "there the western multitude jammed the aisles." Donnelly's career, according to Mr. Wack, was "the most violent political career of any man since the time of Robespierre."

A valuable study of the operation of the mothers' pensions law in Minnesota is printed under the title "County Allowances in Minnesota in 1922," by Mildred D. Mudgett, in the *Journal of Social Forces* for May.

The progress through southern Minnesota and eastern South Dakota of the "James-Younger gang" of bandits after the Northfield robbery of 1876 is traced in great detail by J. A. Derome in a series of articles which appear each Saturday in the *Daily Argus-Leader* of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, from March 22 to June 14.

Mr. Elmer E. Adams' study of *The Washburn-Nelson Senatorial Campaign of 1894–1895* (see *ante,* p. 468) has been reprinted as a small pamphlet (Fergus Falls, 1924. 13 p.).

Local History Items

A brief article entitled "George Loomis Becker and the County Named to Honor Him," by Warren Upham, is printed in the *Detroit Record* for June 20.

A history of the Mankato State Teachers College and an account of the career of President Charles H. Cooper, who has been at the head of the school for twenty-five years, are published in the *Mankato Daily Free Press* for April 9.

A special edition of the *Polk County Leader* of Crookston, dated June 6, "is published to commemorate the centennial of the first official exploration of the Red River Valley by the United States government, and to record in some measure the progress of Crookston and Polk county." An account of the Long expedition of 1823 is contributed by Mr. Conrad G. Selvig, superintendent of the Northwest School and Station of the University of Minnesota. He also is the author of "Notes From Early History of County." The reminiscences of Mr. Elias Steenerson, one of the earliest settlers in the county, are published under the title "Hardships of the First Settlement of Polk County." An entire section is devoted to the history of the northwest school and to the development of farming and dairying in the region. Stories of the early exploration of the Red River Valley and of the building of the railroad through it are related by Mr. Olin D. Wheeler.

An account of "Scenic and Historic Ramsey State Park," by H. M. Hitchcock, in which some attention is given to the historical background of the region, appears in *Sparks: Northwest Motor Digest* for July.

Among the old settlers' associations which have held meetings recently are those of Renville County at Olivia on June 11, 12, and 13, of Dodge County at Mantorville on June 9, and of Stearns County at St. Cloud on June 3.

At a meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society in Hibbing on April 22, addresses and papers were given on the following topics: "Early Education in Hibbing" by Mrs. Susan Gandsey, who has the honor of being "Hibbing's first teacher"; "Hibbing Independent School District Number 27," by C. E. Everett; "The Northern Border in the Treaty of Paris and Treaty of Ghent," by William E. Culkin; "Recollections of Early Residents of Hibbing," by Judge Martin Hughes; "Hibbing in the War," by R. W. Hitchcock; and "An Illustrated Ramble through Minnesota History," by Willoughby M. Babcock, Jr., curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society.

"Legends and Stories from the St. Croix River" is the title of a series by Ruth B. Teare which has been appearing in the *Washington County Post* of Stillwater since April 24. The following subjects are included: a description of the St. Croix Valley as "The Land of the Chippewas and Sioux," April 24; "Battle Hollow," the story of the Sioux-Chippewa conflict near Stillwater in 1839, May 1; some recollections of Mrs. Maria Bolles concerning the Indians of the region, May 8; an "Elegy Written on an Indian Mound," May 15; an Indian legend about "Zion Hill," at Stillwater, May 22; accounts of John McKusick's lumber mill and of the landslide of 1852, May 29; stories of "Early Days in Stillwater," June 5, 12, and 19; and an account of "Vasa — the City That Never Was," June 26.

The completion of a new city hall in Virginia is the occasion for the publication in the *Virginia Daily Enterprise* for April 9 of descriptions of earlier city halls and of the history of the movement which resulted in the erection of the present structure.

The Tuttle-Columbus Neighborhood (Minneapolis, n.d. 52 p.) is the title of a pamphlet embodying the results of a survey of a community in southeast Minneapolis made under the direction of Professor Manuel C. Elmer of the University of Minnesota.

The completion of the new Nicollet Hotel in Minneapolis has again aroused interest in the old Nicollet House which stood on the same site for sixty-five years. The *Minneapolis Tribune* for June 15 publishes an account of the old hostelry and a picture taken in 1858.

Accounts of the "Old Red Mill" in Edina Township on the outskirts of Minneapolis and of Mr. George Millam, the miller who began to operate it in 1869, appear in the *Minneapolis Tribune* and the *Minneapolis Journal* for April 20. Pictures of the mill appear with both narratives.

In an account published in the *Minneapolis Journal* for May 13, some of the Civil War experiences of Judge Ell Torrance of Minneapolis are related. The article is occasioned by his eightieth birthday.

For a period of nearly seven years historical sketches and personal recollections by "Benjamin Backnumber" have appeared in the Sunday issues of the *St. Paul Daily News* under the heading "St. Paul Before This." The first series of these articles appeared from February 26, 1911, to February 16, 1913, and the second from September 14, 1919, to April 6, 1924. It is now announced that the author of these contributions to local history — many of which have been noted in the pages of the BULLETIN — is Mr. John Talman, newspaper librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society.

An illustrated *Jubilee Year Book* (1924. 47 p.) has been issued by the Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church of St. Paul in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of its founding, which was celebrated from April 16 to 27. Brief histories of the church, of the "Carroll Street Mission," and of the "Women's Missionary Society" are included.

At the dedication on April 13 of the new edifice of the First Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church of St. Paul, the seventy-fourth anniversary of the establishment of the church in that city was celebrated. A brief history of this branch of the Methodist Church in St. Paul appears in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of April 13. A week of celebration by members of its congregation marked the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Swedish Tabernacle of St. Paul. The *Pioneer Press* for April 20, the date of the beginning of the jubilee, publishes an outline of the history of the church.

The fates of some of the old church buildings of St. Paul, long since abandoned by their congregations, are noted in an article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for May 18. It reveals that the churches are now being put to uses varying from a garage to an undertaker's establishment. Pictures of some of these old structures and portraits of pastors who formerly served in them accompany the article.

The history of one of the oldest office buildings in the state, the Irvine Block in St. Paul, which was erected in 1854, is presented, with a view of the building, in the *St. Paul Daily News* for June 8.

Brief illustrated articles about some of the parks and squares of St. Paul have appeared recently in the *St. Paul Daily News*. The interesting fact that Rice Park, Smith Park, and Irvine Park have belonged to the city since 1849, the year in which Minnesota Territory was organized, is brought out in the sketches for May 24 and June 1 and 22. Accounts of Indian Mounds Park, Summit Park, and Linwood Park, all more recently acquired, are published on June 8, 15, and 29. Portraits of Henry M. Rice, who presented Rice Park to the city, and of Mrs. Rice appear in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for June 1.

In memory of three former presidents of the St. Anthony Park Improvement Association, Professors Samuel B. Green and Le Roy Cady of the University of Minnesota college of agriculture and Gilbert Gutterson, three granite boulders were unveiled with appropriate ceremonies at College Park in the St. Paul suburb on May 11. The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of that date publishes sketches of the careers of the men who were thus honored.

Days when the traveling circus was developing into an important form of amusement are recalled in an illustrated feature article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for April 20 about the "Guerin, St. Germain and DeHaven 'Grand Imperial Circus,'" which was financed principally by St. Paul men. In the late sixties the circus opened in St. Louis, spent a winter in St. Paul, and then went east. Misfortune followed in its train, however, and the competition of five other shows caused its final collapse in Maine. With it went the fortunes of the St. Paul promoters, Vital Guerin and Frank St. Germain. Recollections of sons of the two men concerning this unfortunate venture are included in the article.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS, volume 1. Reprint of the *Annals* of the society published 1850–56, containing miscellaneous papers and sketches. 1902. xii, 430 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 2. Miscellaneous documents and papers. 1860–67. 294 p. Cloth, $3.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 3. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1870–80. viii, 433 p. Cloth, $5.00

COLLECTIONS, volume 4. *History of the City of St. Paul and County of Ramsey, Minnesota,* by J. F. Williams. 1876. 475 p. Out of print

COLLECTIONS, volume 5. *History of the Ojibway Nation,* by William W. Warren and Edward D. Neill. 1885. 535 p. Out of print

COLLECTIONS, volume 6. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1887–94. iv, 556 p. Cloth, $3.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 7. *The Mississippi River and Its Source,* by J. V. Brower. 1893. xv, 360 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 8. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1895–98. xii, 542 p. Cloth, $3.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 9. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1901. xiv, 694 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 10. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1905. xvi, viii, 938 p. in 2 parts. Cloth, $5.00

COLLECTIONS, volume 11. *Itasca State Park, an Illustrated History,* by J. V. Brower. 1905. 285 p. Cloth, $3.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 12. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1909. xx, 827 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 13. *Lives of the Governors of Minnesota,* by James H. Baker. 1908. xii, 480 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 14. *Minnesota Biographies, 1655–1912,* by Warren Upham and Mrs. Rose B. Dunlap. 1912. xxviii, 892 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 15. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1915. xv, 872 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 17. *Minnesota Geographic Names; Their Origin and Historic Significance,* by Warren Upham. 1920. viii, 735 p. Cloth, $3.50

THE ABORIGINES OF MINNESOTA: *A Report Based on the Collections of Jacob V. Brower, and on the Field Surveys and Notes of Alfred J. Hill and Theodore H. Lewis,* by N. H. Winchell. 1911. xiv, 761 p., quarto. ¾ leather, $5.00

MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN, volumes 1, 2, 3, eight numbers each. Papers, documents, reviews, and notes. February, 1915–November, 1920. 590, 630, 587 p. Cloth, vol. 1, $8.00; vol. 2, $3.50; vol. 3, $5.00

A HISTORY OF MINNESOTA, by William Watts Folwell. Volume 1: To the organization of the state in 1857. 1921. xxii, 533 p. Volume 2: To the end of the Civil War. 1924. xviii, 477 p. Cloth, each $5.00

The same volumes in editions limited to two hundred numbered copies, autographed by the author, and with special frontispieces inserted. ¾ leather, each $10.00